

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name GEORGE KNIPP & BROTHER BUILDING

other names/site number _____

2. Locationstreet & number 121 North Howard Street N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town Baltimore N/A ☐ vicinity
state Maryland code MD county independant city code 510 zip code 21201**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

East Iron Architecture of Baltimore, MD 1850-1904Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature]

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Date 10/25/94

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

B-2320

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

ITALIANATE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls iron

brick

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The George Knipp & Brother building at 121 North Howard Street is a five-story brick commercial structure with a four-bay cast iron facade, constructed about 1875. The two lowest stories have been altered by the addition of a modern brick and metal facade which unites the building with 117 and 119 North Howard Street. The cast iron facade of the upper stories remains intact, comprising four bays defined by large window openings flanked by Corinthian columns and headed by flat arches with rounded corners. Dark translucent plastic has been installed in the window openings; the visible sash have 2/2 lights. The floor levels are marked by intermediary cornices comprising crown and bed molding running between consoles decorated with heraldic shields, above a geometric frieze. Piers at the corners of the facade are decorated with recessed panels. The building cornice has a deep overhang, supported on large foliated brackets above a frieze enriched with stylized modillions.

8. Statement of Significance

B-2320

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1875

Significant Dates

c.1875

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

THEME:

Cast Iron Architecture in Baltimore, Maryland, 1850-1904.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The George Knipp & Brother building is significant as representing a Full Cast Iron Front type building.

☒ See continuation sheet no. 2
for Historic Context and Maryland
Comprehensive Historic Preservation
Plan data.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Baltimore City Directories, 1870s-1940s

Industries of Maryland: A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acreUSGS quad: Baltimore East, MD

UTM References

A 18 360330 4350110
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are defined as a single city lot, specifically identified as Block 620, Lot 23, recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City, Maryland.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property comprises the city lot upon which the resource stands.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian

organization Baltimore Heritage, Inc. date May 14, 1990

street & number 109 Brandon Road telephone (410) 296-7538

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21212

B-2320

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

GEORGE KNIPP & BROTHERS BUILDING
Baltimore
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The George Knipp & Brother building at 121 North Howard Street is a flat-roofed brick commercial building erected about 1875 for a manufacturer and dealer in furniture and plumbing supplies. The building is five stories high, and features a cast-iron facade above an altered first-and second-story front. The upper facade is four bays wide, defined by corinthian columns framing flat-arched window openings with rounded corners. The window openings have been covered with dark translucent plastic; large 2/2 sash survive behind this treatment. The windows are set deeply within the openings; the edge of the spandrels between the arches is decorated with a continuous molded band. The floor levels are marked by intermediary cornices with crown and bed moldings running between consoles decorated with heraldic shields, above a frieze of stylized geometric forms suggestive of an egg-and-dart motif. The building cornice has a deep overhang, supported on large foliated brackets above a row of stylized modillions. The corners of the facade are defined by piers with recessed panels.

The facade was altered at street level and on the second story in the mid-twentieth century by the construction of a modern facade of metallic panels, plate glass windows, and brick infill uniting this building with the two structures immediately to the south. The original cast iron framing elements may remain largely intact behind this modern screen.

The cast iron facade of 121 North Howard street is strongly similar to that of the Fava Fruit Building (c.1869) which formerly stood in the 200 block of South Charles Street. Before its dismantlement in 1976, the Fava Building was the largest surviving cast iron front in Baltimore. Elements which 121 North Howard Street has in common with the Fava Building include the building cornice, side piers, and geometric frieze under the intermediary cornices. It is highly likely that the two structures were the products of the same local works, although it is impossible at this time to determine which of the seven Baltimore foundries which manufactured building facades during the period may have been responsible.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

GEORGE KNIPP & BROTHERS BUILDING
Baltimore
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 2

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930
Modern, 1930-1941

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Economic/Commercial and Industrial

Resource Type: Architecture

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing
facility
COMMERCE/TRADE/business

Known Design Source: none

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

B-2320

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

GEORGE KNIPP & BROTHERS BUILDING
Baltimore
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 3

HISTORY & SUPPORT:

121 North Howard Street achieved its present configuration about 1875. The Baltimore city directory for 1870 indicates this address as the dwelling of John C. Knipp, a use which is inconsistent with the present building; the property was the location of John Knipp's furniture business and his brother George Knipp's enterprise in gas fixtures and plumbing supplies. It is likely that the present building was constructed between 1870 and 1876, when George Knipp was assessed for a 5 story iron front warehouse on the site. The Sanborn map for 1879 shows a 5 story iron front building, with a furniture and upholstery manufacturer on the top floor. The firm of George Knipp & Brother was profiled in the 1882 edition of Industries of Maryland: A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore: "Twenty years ago Messrs. Knipp & Brother founded their present house, which is one of the most leading and prominent emporiums for gas fixtures and fine cabinet furniture, and one of the largest plumbing and gas-fitting establishments in Baltimore, in the style of its superior fittings and furniture, etc. The buildings occupied is a double store, and is 53X66 feet in extent, and is equipped in the best order for the display of the handsome stock held. The stock carried consists of an extensive and varied assortment of the finest artistic design and finish for all household or office use, or for large public buildings, etc., etc..." (p. 180).

The building continued to be occupied by George Knipp & Brother until George Knipp's death in 1904. At that time, the furniture and carpet firm of John Turnbull Jr. and Son moved in, having been burned out of their quarters at 16 West Baltimore Street. The Turnbull firm occupied the building for only about a year. Between 1910 and 1915, the carpet and furniture firm of Gusdorff & Joseph occupied 117, 119, 119½, and 121 North Howard Street. In 1927-28, Theo Friedmann, Inc., shoe repair, was a tenant in #121. Since 1929, the J.G. McCrory Co. store has occupied the first two stories and basement. The Celestial Restaurant also was located in the building in 1930.

Geo. Knipp +
 Brother Bldg
 B-2320
 Baltimore
 Maryland

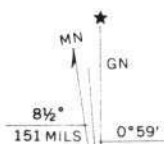
18/360330/4350110

B2H E

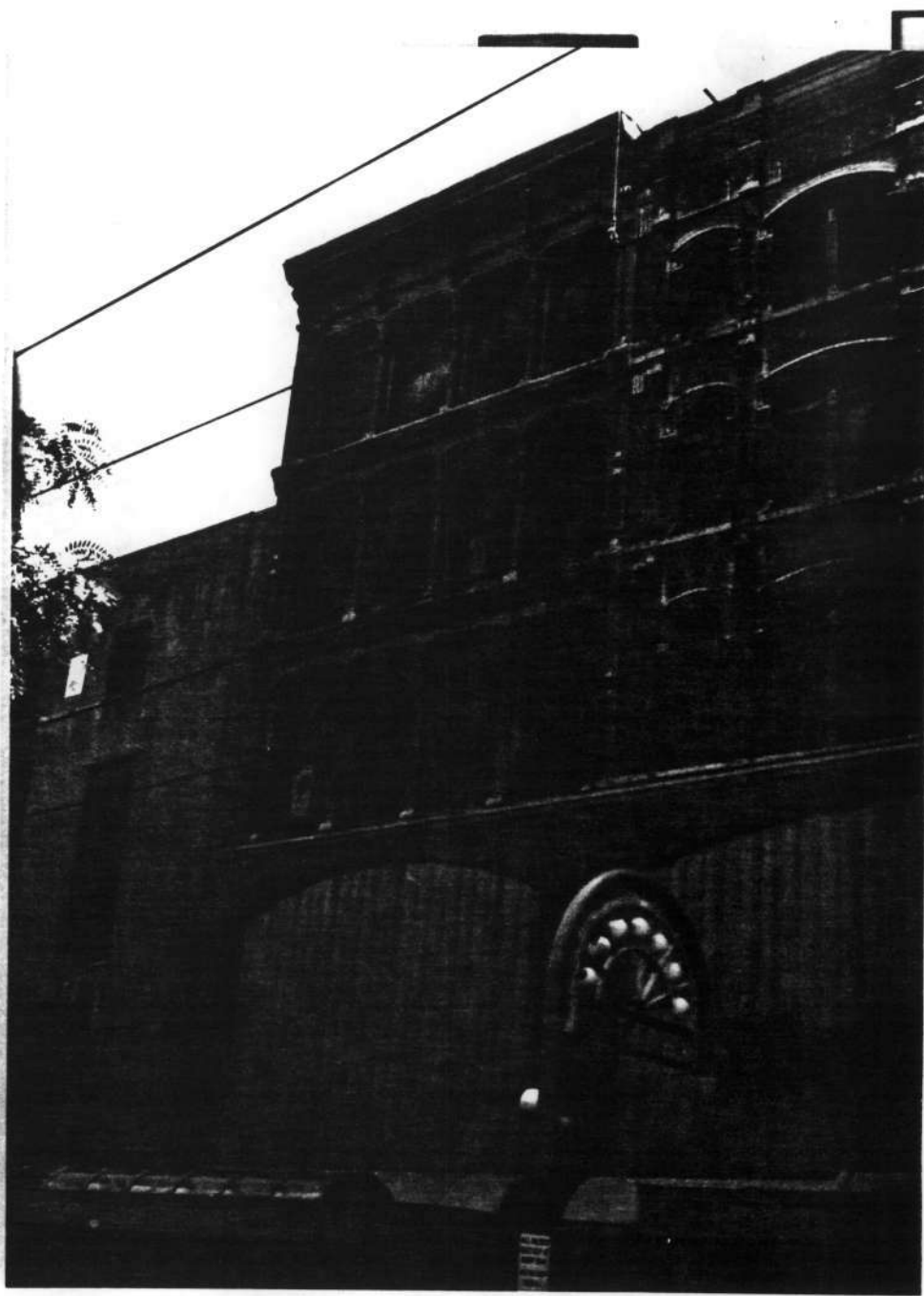


(RELAY)
 5662 11 NW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and City of Baltimore
 Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
 methods. Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field checked 1944



B-2320



B-2320

George Kniff & Brother Building
121 North Howard St
Baltimore, Maryland

7 August 1994

photo: R Andrews

neg: MD SHPO

W. Clifton

11,

George Knipp & Brother Building
(McCrory's Buildings)
117-121 North Howard Street
Private

c. 1875 - 1906

The McCrory's Buildings span about 40 years in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and represent three distinct periods in commercial architecture. The cast iron facade of 121 North Howard closely resembles the Fava Fruit Building (Dismantled) of ca. 1869 and may in fact have been cast by the same foundry. It is one of about 12 remaining cast iron facades in Baltimore. The brick facade of No. 119 North Howard has a highly varied surface with decorative molded courses and corbelling, techniques which were typical of the 1880's. No. 117 North Howard Street was built in 1906 and clearly shows the revival of Classicism in the early 20th century in its streamlined pilaster caps, molding arch, wide cornice, and relatively flat wall surface. Although the first two stories of all three buildings have been concealed under alterations at three different periods, the original facades may be mostly intact under the present metallic paneled exterior.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common McCrory's Buildings

2. Location

street & number 117-121 North Howard Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state Maryland county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Albert Berney et al c/o McCrory Corp.

street & number Tax Dept., 25th Flr. 888 Seventh Avenue telephone no.:

city, town New York state and zip code New York 10106

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber SEB 391

street & number Fayette and Calvert Streets folio 351

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Baltimore Retail District Survey

date 1980 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

city, town Baltimore state Maryland 21201

7. Description

Survey No. B-2320

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY:

The three adjoining buildings which make up the McCrory's Variety Store Howard Street facade are late 19th and early 20th century brick and cast iron commercial structures located on the northeast corner of North Howard and Marion Streets in central Baltimore, Maryland. The buildings are five stories in height facing west and are united by a common metallic facade across the first and second stories. Each upper facade differs in design and materials. No. 117 is an early 20th century brick building dominated by a stone segmental arch at the fourth story. No. 119 is an 1880's brick building with segmental-arched dating from about 1875, with flat arches and Corinthian columns. It is painted brick red to match the other two facades. The first two stories of the three buildings are in retail use. The three upper floors are unoccupied or used for storage.

General Description:

The first and second stories of the three McCrory's buildings are covered with metallic panels in brick red and buff. The red panels suggest the line of the segmental arches of the upper facade of No. 119. The street level has plate glass windows on brick bases about four feet high. A canvas awning extends across the entire facade. This is the third remodeling of the facades. The first took place about 1929 when McCrory's 5 & 10¢ Store acquired the lease of the buildings. At that time, stucco covering was applied to the second story above a continuous sign panel which carried the store name. The stucco was pierced by round-arched windows with T-shaped muntins. Circular bulls-eye windows flanked each end of the row of arched windows. A vertical projecting electric sign was attached to No. 117 during its use as a restaurant on the second floor.

In the 1950's, a second facade alteration replaced the stucco with a covering of square concrete blocks with three groups of ribbon windows. Raised applied letters below the windows identified McCrory's. The present metallic panel facade was erected in the early 1980's. McCrory's also has an elevation on West Lexington Street which is not part of the three Howard Street buildings, but is connected with them through the interior.

No. 117 North Howard Street is a five-story red brick building erected in 1906. It has three bays framed by brick piers extending through the fourth story. The piers terminate with stone capitals in a geometric style. A stilted segmental stone arch outlined in molding rises to a large projecting, garlanded keystone. The fifth story has stone belt courses at the sill and lintel levels. The deep cornice has modillions and guttae. Above the cornice is a parapet with arched openings trimmed in stone. End blocks terminate the parapet above the stone coping. Dark Lexan covers the original 6/6 windows.

(continue, please)

8. Significance

Survey No. B-2320

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1875-1906 Builder/Architect 117-Simonson & Pietsch

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SUMMARY

The McCrory's Buildings span about 40 years in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and represent three distinct periods in commercial architecture. The cast iron facade of 121 North Howard closely resembles the Fava Fruit Building (Dismantled) of ca. 1869 and may in fact have been cast by the same foundry. It is one of about 12 remaining cast iron facades in Baltimore. The brick facade of No. 119 North Howard has a highly varied surface with decorative molded courses and corbelling, techniques which were typical of the 1880's. No. 117 North Howard Street was built in 1906 and clearly shows the revival of Classicism in the early 20th century in its streamlined pilaster caps, molding arch, wide cornice, and relatively flat wall surface. Although the first two stories of all three buildings have been concealed under alterations at three different periods, the original facades may be mostly intact under the present metallic paneled exterior.

History and Support:

The three buildings at 117, 119, and 121 North Howard Street are primarily products of the post-Civil War expansion of the retail district of Baltimore. In the case of No. 117, the existing building is an early 20th century structure, the result of the building boom following the Fire of 1904. Each building had the same general purpose, as showrooms and warehouses, and each was typical in design and materials of its particular period.

The cast iron front of 121 North Howard Street was probably the first built in the existing row, dating from about 1875, although an earlier building undoubtedly occupied the lot. The decorative molding under the sills, the side panels and heraldic shields, and bracketed cornice are virtually identical to those of the Fava Fruit Building. This large warehouse formerly stood in the 200 block of South Charles Street. It was the largest remaining cast iron front in the city until dismantled in 1976. The foundry which cast the Fava Building facade is unknown, but was probably one of seven foundries in Baltimore which manufactured building facades in the late 1860's and early 1870's. The similarity between the Howard Street building and the Fava Building strongly suggests both were the work of the same firm. Except for the paint color, which is currently brick red, and the Lexan covering the windows, the iron facade of the McCrory's row is unaltered above the second story. It is one of approximately 12 cast iron fronts remaining in the city.

(continue, please)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-2320

City directories

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Dept., Photo collection

Land Records

Wright, David G., Baltimore City Cast Iron. Friends of Cast Iron Architecture, February 1978.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore EastQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification co-terminous with 3 lots with dimensions as follows:

1 - 28 ft. 3½ in. x 66 ft.

2 - 34 ft. 1½ in. x 101 ft. 2½ in.

3 - 31 ft. 11¼ in. x 101 ft. 2½ in.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historical Preservation Analystorganization Comm. for Hist. & Arch. Pres.date March, 1986street & number 606 Tower Suites, 118 N. Howard St.telephone (301) 396-4866city or town Baltimorestate Maryland 21201

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

No. 119 North Howard Street is a double facade and the building was in fact numbered 119-119½ prior to its consolidation into the McCrory's Store in the late 1920's. The two sides of the circa 1885 facade mirror each other and are divided by a central brick pier articulated with molded decorative brick and corbeled panels. Each side has two bays, the inner bay larger with segmental-arched window openings with pairs of 1/1 windows under a common transom. The outer bay is narrower, with 1/1 windows under segmental arches. All windows in the facade are currently covered by dark colored Lexan. The bays are separated by slightly projecting piers with corbeled cuts and molded courses, giving a highly varied surface. The arches outlining the windows are dentilated and the spandrels between the floor levels are ornamented by molded bricks. Stone belt courses accentuate the sill level of each floor. The cornice is shallow, consisting of bell cast moldings which return at the tops of the facade piers.

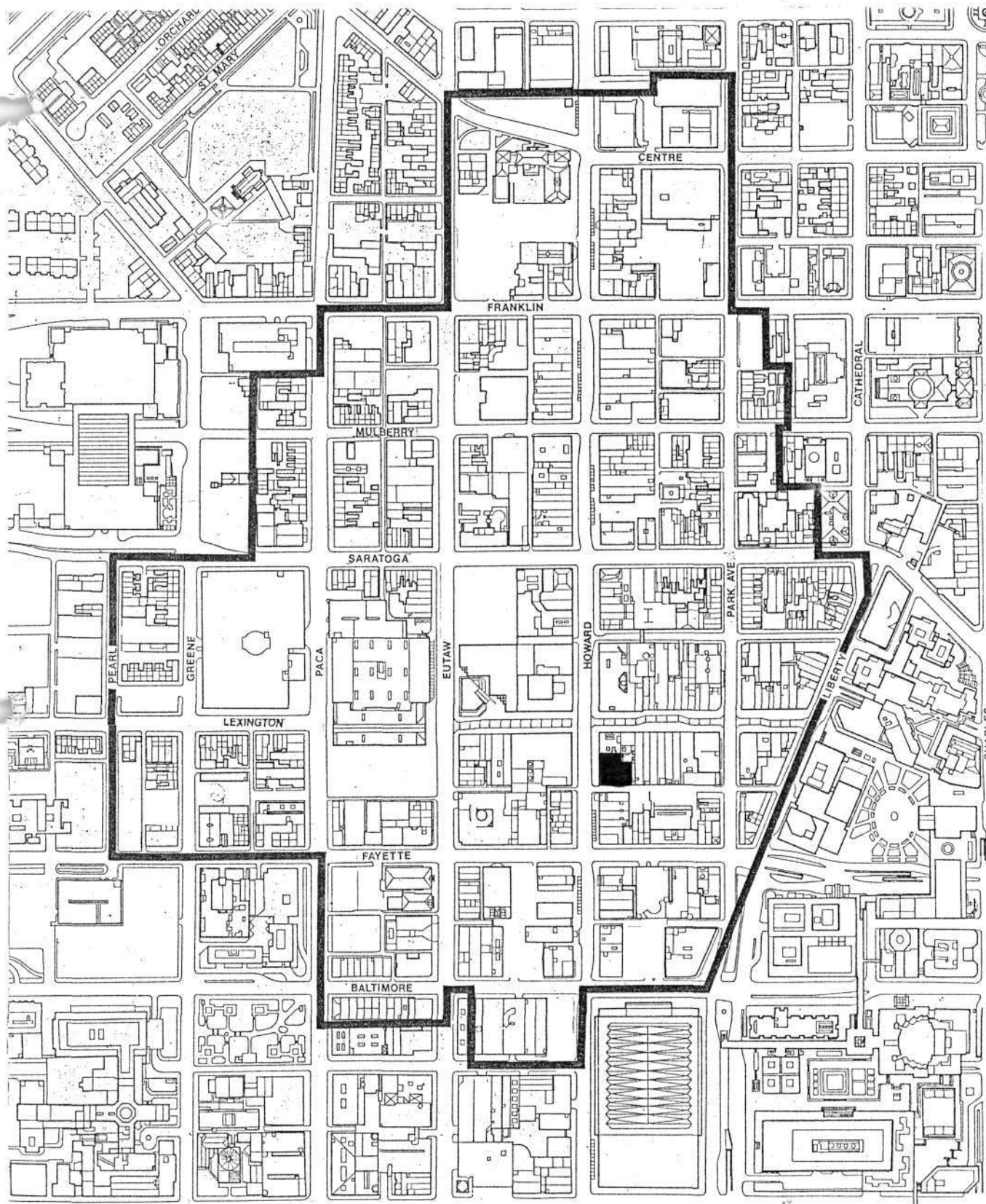
No. 121 No. Howard Street was built about 1875 and is a five-story brick building with a four-bay cast iron facade. The large window openings have flat, round-cornered arches and Corinthian columns between the bays. The narrow side piers have recessed panels and heraldic shields. The cornice is wide, with console brackets and stylized modillions. The entire facade is painted red to match the brick of the other McCrory's buildings. The original 2/2 windows are covered by dark Lexan.

The tenants of the building are mostly unknown, although the furniture and carpet firm of John Turnbull Jr. and Son occupied the building for about a year after the Fire of 1904, having been burned out of their original location at 16 West Baltimore Street. In 1927-28, Theo Friedman, Inc. shoe repair used at least part of the building. Since 1929, the McCrory's 5 & 10¢ Store has occupied the first two stories and basement.

The variegated brick surfaces of 119 North Howard Street exemplify the techniques of the Queen Anne style commercial building. Instead of applied ornamentation, the bricks are molded in geometric shapes or stylized floral designs and incorporated in the wall surface. Corbels in both convex and concave form further contribute to the general restlessness of the facade. Probably dating from about 1885, the building was undoubtedly not the first to occupy the site. The tenancy of the building is unknown prior to 1900 when Gusdorff and Joseph furniture and carpets occupied the building, remaining for 26 years. From 1904 onwards, the store and warehouse also included 117 No. Howard. From 1929 to the present, 119 No. Howard has been part of the McCrory's 5 & 10¢ Store, after standing vacant for about two years after Gusdorff and Joseph left the building.

No. 117 North Howard Street is the newest of the three McCrory's buildings, erected in 1906. A photograph dated about 1905 shows the previous building on the lot, a four-story brick commercial structure with four bays and a flat roof. The second and third story windows had bracketed window hoods. Gusdorff and Joseph had moved into this building prior to the time of the photograph and it is possible that the present building was erected for them. Simonson and Pietsch, the architects, were also the designers of the Sonnenborn building (Paca-Pratt Building; B-2330; National Register) the year before 117 North Howard. The Sonnenborn Building was in the same restrained Classical Revival style and was also one of the earliest steel and concrete structures in Baltimore. As firms relocated to other locations ringing the fire area, new buildings and new facades were erected, giving the desired modern effect which retail merchants considered crucial to re-establishing their former status.

Gusdorff and Joseph vacated the building in 1926 and it stood unoccupied until about 1929, when it reopened as part of the McCrory's Store. On the second floor of the building and reached by a separate canopied entrance was the Celestial Restaurant, a dining and dance operation. A vertical electric sign was attached to the exterior during the few years that the Celestial was in business at this address. By 1936, the restaurant was no longer listed in the city directory at 117 North Howard Street.



Baltimore Metrocenter Survey
 Market Center
 McCrory's Buildings
 117-121 North Howard Street
 B-2320



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

620
B-2320 73
MAGI#0423205611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

McCrory's

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

117 - 121 N. Howard Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

DATE

1976 COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL & ☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION
SURVEY RECORDS Room 900

CITY, TOWN

26 South Calvert St.
Baltimore, Md. 21202

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-2320

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is actually three old buildings which have been combined at the first story for use as one large store. The first story has been completely altered into a series of large sheet glass windows and glass double doors. The second story of all three buildings has been masked behind a new facade of square stone blocks pierced by ten single hung windows of three lights each, grouped 3-4-3. It is at the third story that these old buildings, all five stories high and four bays wide, (except for the ~~elevator floor~~ ^{11th Howard} which is three bays wide) assume any individuality.

I. 121 N. Howard - All windows are double hung with two-over-two lights in this iron front. They are mounted in moulded flat arches with rounded corners which, in the inner bays, rest on mullions in the form of unfluted columns with Corinthian capitals. Moulded cornices appear above the third and fourth story windows. At the edges of the facade's upper stories are narrow decorative incisions in the form of a circle with two rectangles on end placed above and below it. Above the fifth story windows are three rondelles joined by a strip of moulding which is curved down at either end, thus accentuating the lines of the lintels. Above this is a moulded roof cornice supported by five brackets.

II. 119 N. Howard - Windows are all double hung with one-over-one lights. Single windows occur in the outer bays, paired ones in the inner bays. All windows have segmental arch lintels with dentiled soffits. In bays where windows are paired a large segmental arch embraces both windows. One-light transoms appear above all windows (except those of the third story, which are boarded).

Piers flanking each bay contain decorative rectangular incisions, terra cotta panels, and corbels. Spandrels above the third, fourth, and fifth story windows likewise contain terra cotta panels. Projecting sills are found below fourth and fifth story windows, and the fifth story sill is dentiled. A balustrade is situated atop the small, dentiled cornice.

III. 117 N. Howard - Building is laid in common bond. Third and fourth story windows are placed within a moulded, stilted segmental arch supported by brick piers with unique, fin-de-siecle capitals. The segmental arch is key-stoned. All windows are six-over-six, double hung, and with the exception of the fourth story, set in flat arches. Fourth story windows follow the contour of the segmental arch. Third story windows have splayed brick lintels, and fifth story windows have none. The latter uses the stone belt course immediately below the windows as a sill. A moulded cornice is interrupted by the fifth story windows. Above this is a blank entablature topped by a large, braced cornice. Atop this is a brick balustrade pierced by eight small round arches.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1875-1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old structures which now comprise McCrory's provide three unique essays in late nineteenth century commercial architecture. 121 N. Howard, a former amusement parlor, is of especial interest in that it is a good example of the increasingly rare iron front type of building. Despite the heavy and awkward alteration of the lower two stories, these buildings remain significant pieces of architecture.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Planning Assistants

ORGANIZATION

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL &
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

DATE

1976

STREET & NUMBER

Room 900

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

26 South Calvert St.
Baltimore, Md 21202

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

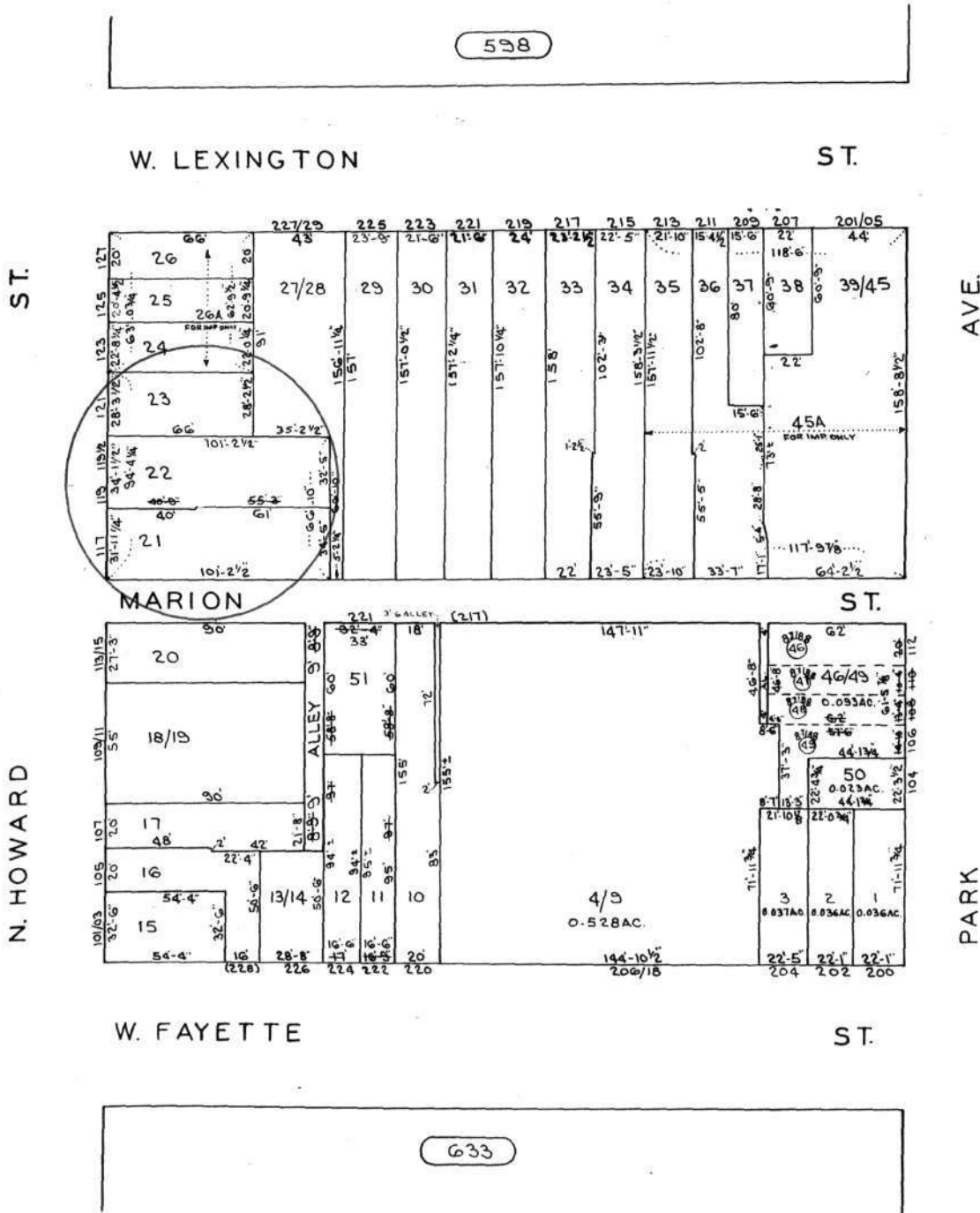
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

REVISIONS

LOTS 4/9, 11, 12, 23A, 46/49 & 51 PER DEED, D.O. & P.L.S. C-34-88-222

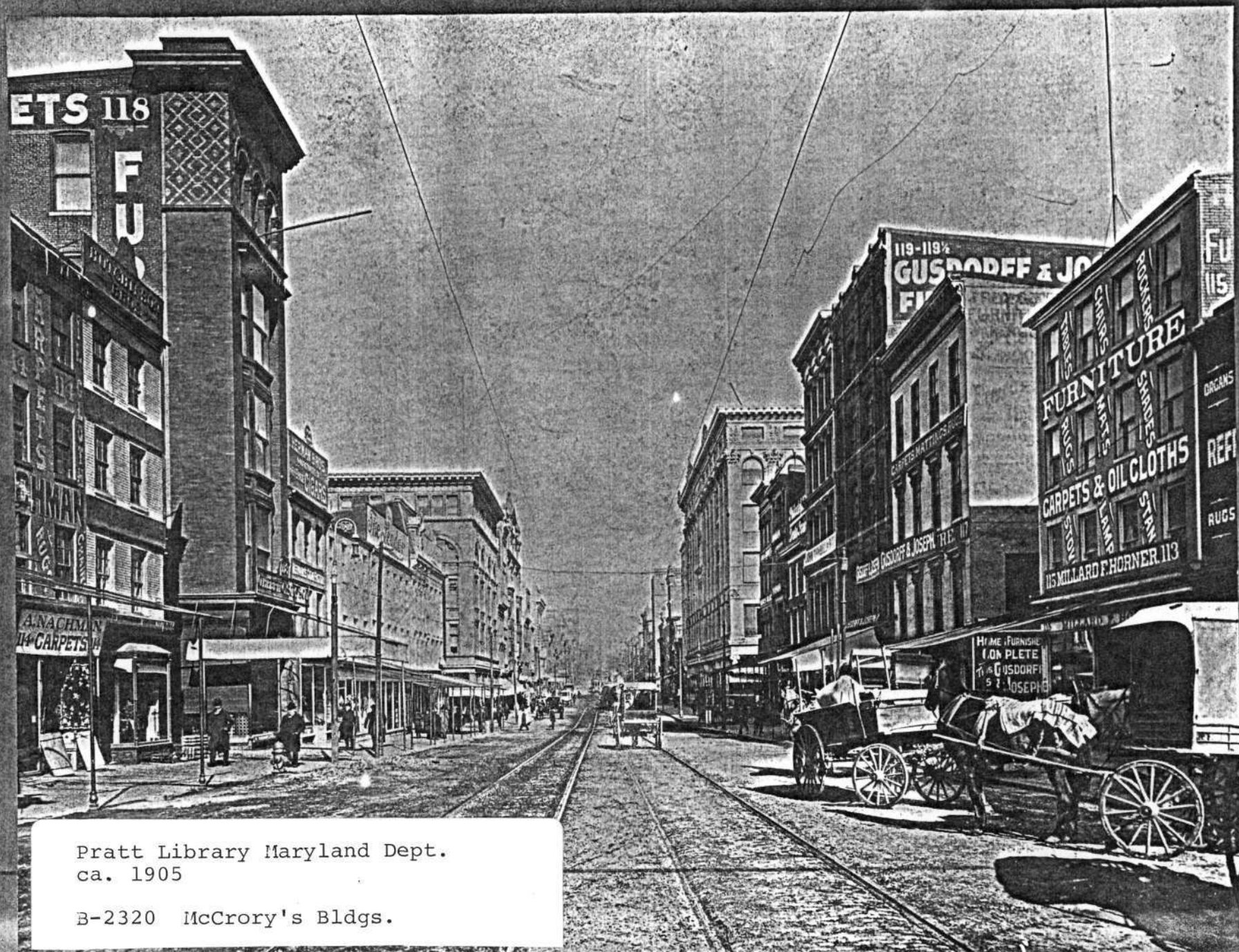
B-2320



D.P.Y. D.G.
 ED BY D.G.
 D BY

NOTICE
 THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED
 FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER
 IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER
 SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION
 WARD **4** SECTION **10**
 BLOCK **620**
 SCALE 1" = 50' DATE DEC. 1987



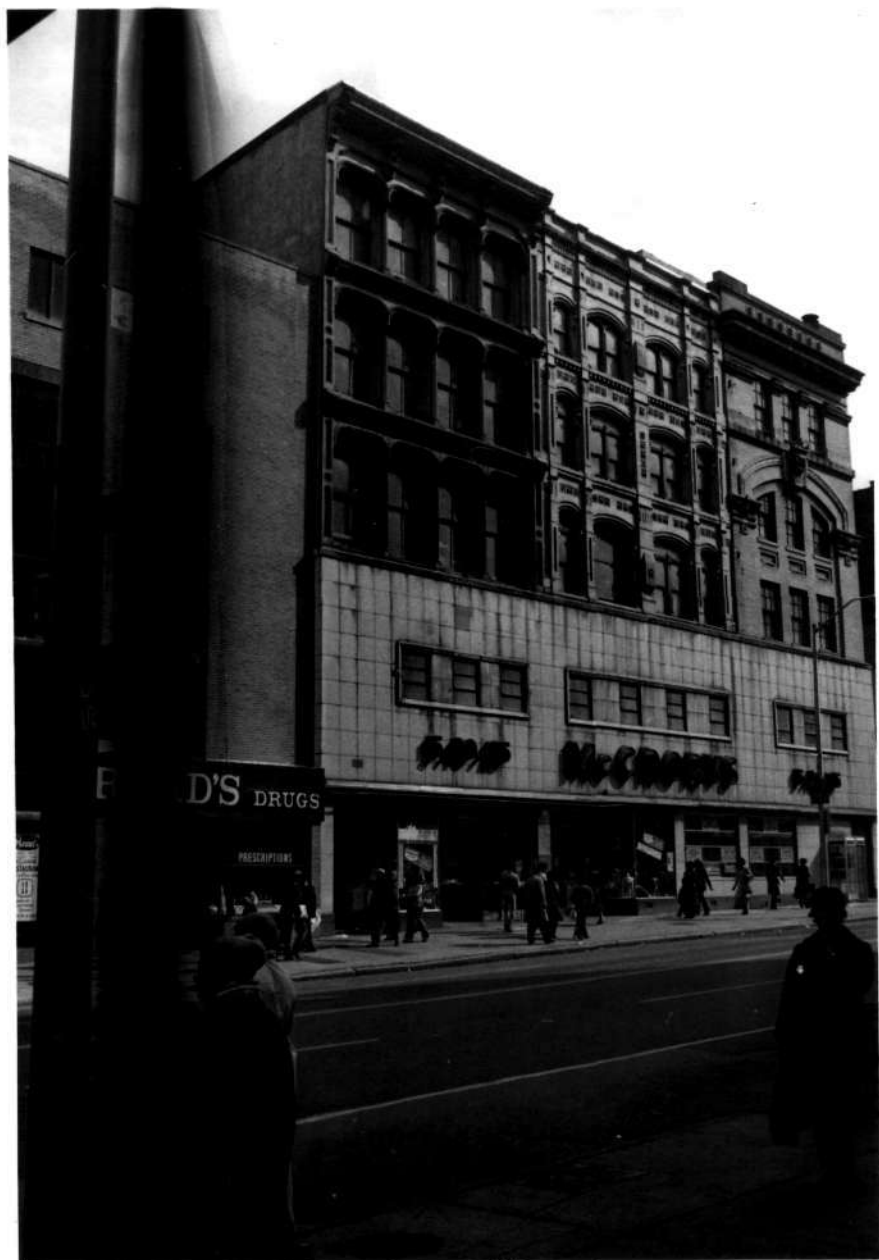
Pratt Library Maryland Dept.
ca. 1905

B-2320 McCrory's Bldgs.

Pratt Library Maryland Dept. ~~ca. 1929~~

B-2320





B-2320

BLOCK 620
117-121 N. HOWARD
McCrony's

2/76

neg.-no. 25

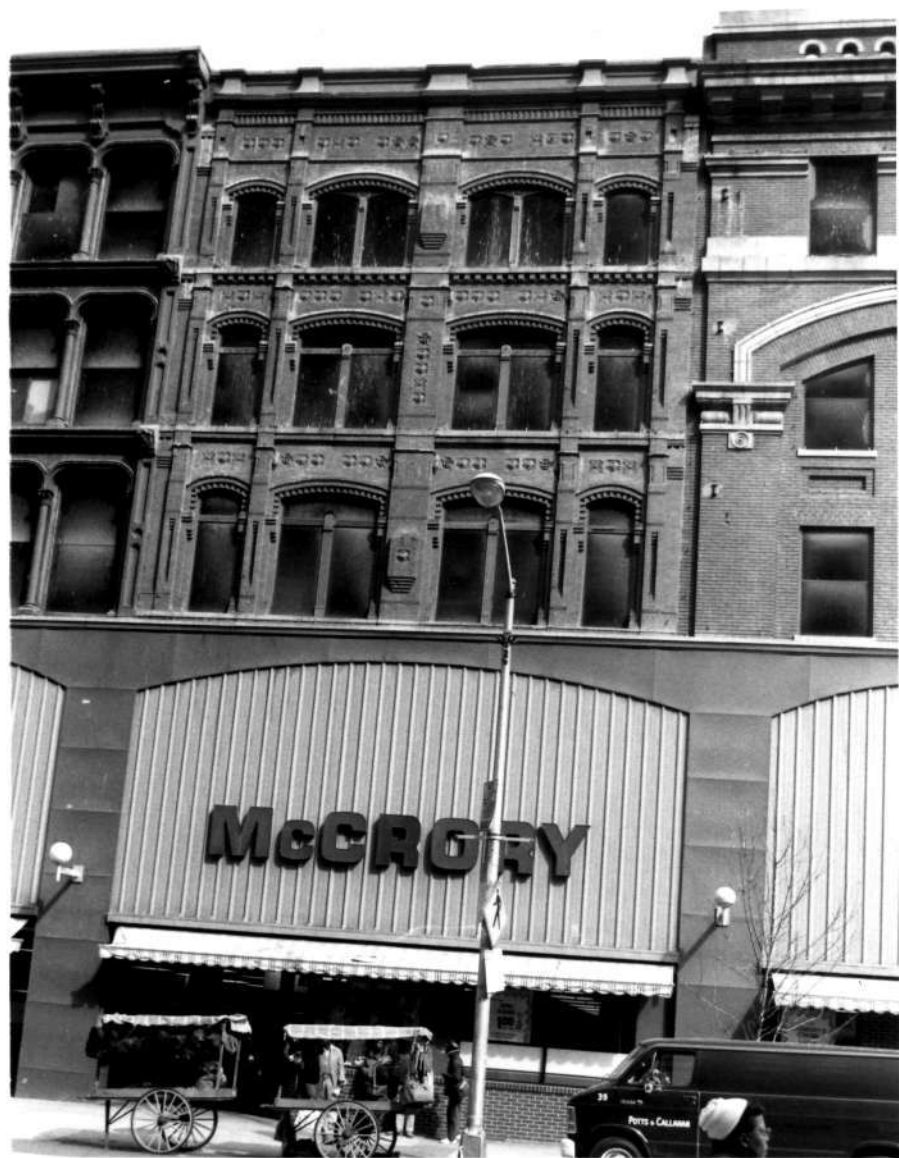


McCrory's Buildings B-2320
117-121 North Howard Street
Market Center - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
March 1986
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
West elevation

1/4



McCrary's Buildings 3-2320
117-121 North Howard Street
Market Center - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Fred Shoken
March 1986
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Detail, 121 North Howard St.
2/4

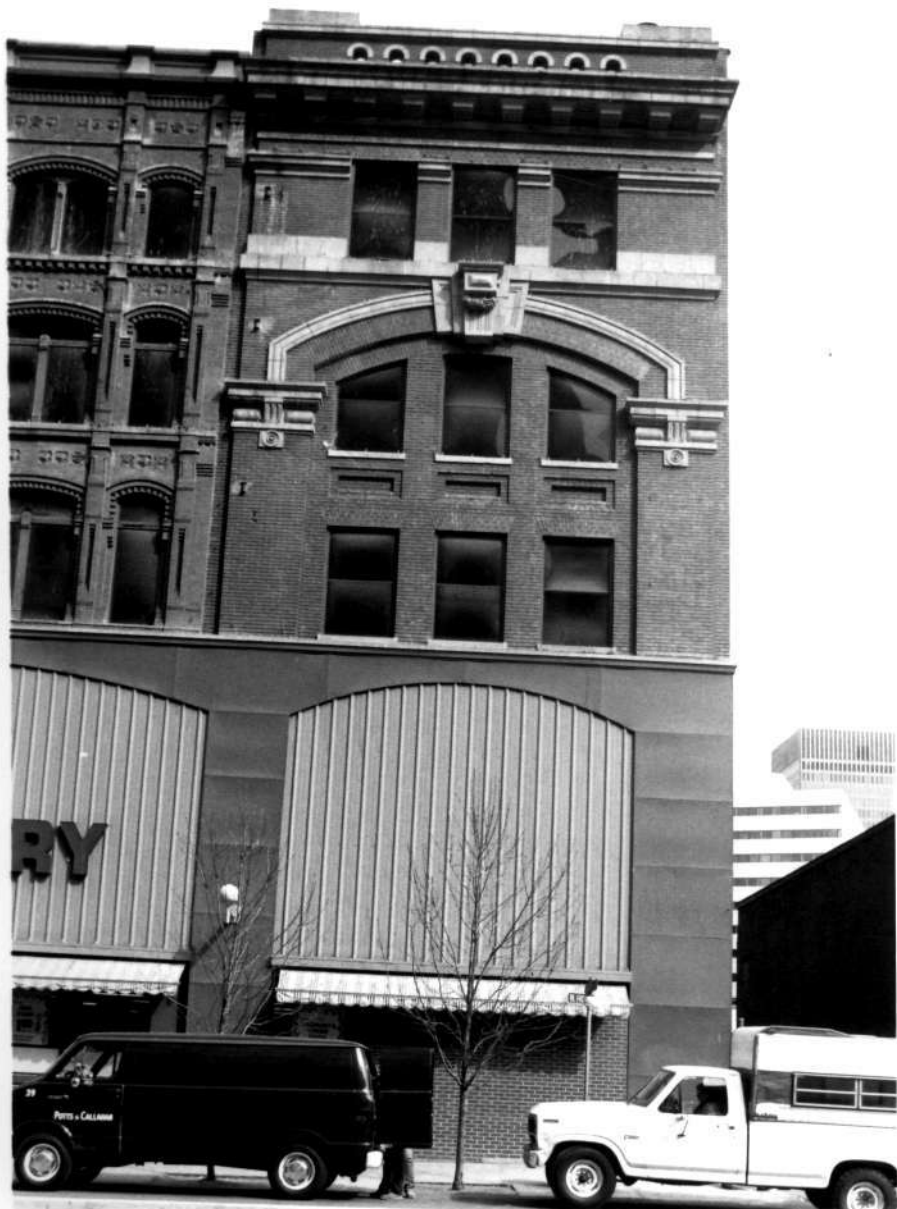


McCrory's Buildings B-2320
117-121 North Howard Street
Market Center - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Fred Shoken
March 1936

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Detail, 119 North Howard St.

3/4

Knipp, George & Brother Building



McCrory's Buildings 3-2320
117-121 North Howard Street
Market Center - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Fred Shoken
March 1986

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Detail, 117 North Howard Street
4/4